

Remarks

Applicants have been required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner has asserted that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the species of Figure 13, the species of Figure 14, the species of Figure 15, the species of Figure 16, and the species of Figure 17.

Applicants respectfully **provisionally elect** the species of Figure 17 for prosecution by way of the present application if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.


This election is made **with traverse**. Applicants specifically reserve the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's restriction requirement is in error because the field of search for the configurations of the claimed invention would be co-extensive. The claims are so interrelated that it would be in the public interest to prosecute all claims in the same application. The election of claims has been made merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920-721-2435.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Judith M. Anderson, hereby certify that on September 10, 2003 this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: 

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